

A
S C H E M E

TO PREVENT THE
EXPORTATION

OF

WOOL Unmanufactur'd.

Most Humbly Submitted,

TO THE

Right Honourable

THE

Two Houses of Parliament

By HENRY LAYBOURNE, M.A.

*Ad societatem et communitatem generis humani
nascimur, itaque semper aliquid ad communem utilitatem
afferre debemus. Cic.*

S T A M F O R D :

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[Price One Shilling.]

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THE P R E F A C E.

THE following Scheme was drawn up about a Year ago, and was laid before the Right Honourable the Commissioners of the Board of Trade, where it met with a favourable Acceptance. It was design'd, to have been afterwards humbly presented to the Right Honourable the Two Houses of Parliament, in their last Session; but that Design was prevented. Several Copies of it have been handed about, in Writing, but this is the first Appearance it has made in Print: And in this there are several Things added from my own loose Papers, which were not in the written Copies.

Various are the Methods, which have been tried, to prevent our attempting any Change, in conducting our Woollen Trade. And we have seen the Policy of a neighbouring Nation thoroughly vers'd in Artifice, exerting itself, to cast a Mist before our Eyes; that we might not discover our own Interest, while she shou'd reap the Fruits of her wily Policy, and aggrandize herself by our Indolence. Thus has she eaten us out of several valuable Branches of Trade, while we tamely look on, and suffer ourselves to be amus'd with insidious Representations.

Hither tend many Pamph'ets, which have been wrote upon this Occasion; several of them have

perplex'd the Affair, and left it more intricate than they found it.

With the same View, I suspect abundance of Notions to have been artfully propagated in common Discourse, and industriously vented in Places of publick Resort.

Some represent the clandestine Exportation of our Wool as an incurable Evil : Others again say, that it may be easily prevented ; and are ready to approve of Methods, which wou'd be, at the best, precarious, if not quite ineffectual.

Some tell us, it is all a Mistake ; there is little of our Wool carried abroad : Others magnify the Exportation of it, and affirm, that the *French* have now by them enough of *English* and *Irish* Wool, to supply them many Years. I fear, there is some Truth in this : And, if it is true ; it shews us, what a Value they set upon our Wool ; and how nearly it concerns us, to prevent their having it hereafter.

Some tell us, that we quite mistake the Staple of our Wool ; your own fine Cloths, say they, are all *Spanish* Wool ; ——— and avouch it, that, except the Lists, there is not an Ounce of *English* Wool in them. Now, as I take it, (but I own, I am no Manufactuer ; and if I am in the Wrong, am willing to be set right,) the *Spanish* Wool is of a much weaker Staple than ours : And, though it is excellent for the Wool, and therefore deserves, that we should give all proper Encouragement to the importing of it ; yet, if the Warp too was all *Spanish* Wool, the Cloth would want that Strength and Firmness, which is the peculiar Recommendation of the *English* fine Cloths. ———

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And, if it were true, that *Spanish* Wool alone wou'd make the best of superfine Cloths ; I make no Doubt, but *France* wou'd, long since, have secur'd to herself All, or the much greater Part of it ; and wou'd have convinc'd us, that it was in Fact true, which some do now affirm ; that it is Partiality only, which makes us have so high an Opinion of our own Wool ; — it is in no wise necessary to the *French* ; — they can do as well without it. I heartily wish, the Experiment may be try'd for many Years to come ; and, I make no question, but *England* will have abundant Reason, to rejoice in the happy Effects of it.

Some wou'd perswade us, that our Trade is in a flourishing Condition, — all our Complaints are groundless, or the Result of mere Discontent. — It is only your Luxury, say they, that makes you poor, restrain that, and all will be well.

And some go so far, as to tell us, It would be the Ruin of the Nation to stop the Exportation of Wool, — were it not for that Channel being open, it wou'd sink to Half the Price it is now at.

Whatever Weight such Assertions may have had with the unknowing or unwary ; I think, the Fallacy of them needs not to be laid open to such, who have taken any Pains to consider this Affair, as it deserves.

That our Wool has been clandestinely exported, and that we have suffer'd by it in our Trade, I believe, will hardly be denied, by any true *Briton*. Therefore every one who is such, must have it nearly at Heart, to contribute, what he can, to the putting an effectual Stop to this Evil.

The Way to do it, is, *1st*, To strip himself of all Prejudices, whether they have arisen from Self-Interest, or from any Notions unwarily entertain'd. *2^{dly}*, To consider coolly, whatever is propos'd as conducive to that End. *3^{dly}*, To weigh impartially the Inconveniencies, which, he apprehends, will attend the Execution of any Scheme, against the Damages sustain'd by the Evil, which such Scheme is intended to prevent. *4^{thly}*, To consider it in the most extensive View, as regarding the Nation in general; and not confin'd to the particular Advantage of this or that Part of it; and respecting the Interests of Persons of all Denominations, of the Landholders, and Tenants; the Merchant and Clothier; as well as the Complaints of the laborious Poor, of the Weaver, who, for want of Employ, has either run into the Army, or been a Charge upon his Parish; or has been forc'd to seek his Bread abroad, where his Hands have been employ'd to distress the Trade of his Native Country, and increase that of its Politick Neighbour. *5^{thly}*, To examin deliberately, whether some Use may not be made of what is offer'd; and, though it does not quite please him, whether it may not be so amended and modell'd, as to answer the End intended by it.

It is with this Temper of Mind, that every true Lover of his Country will, of course, examine, whatever is offer'd for promoting the Good of it; with a steady View to which the following Scheme was drawn up; and, I have great Hopes, that, if it is ever tried, it will be found of great Use toward attaining the End to be serv'd by it, and will not be attended by any ill Consequences.

For any one that carefully peruses it, will find that not any Influence is created by it. So far from
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it, that great Care was taken, not to lodge much Power in any Hands whatever, without such a Check, as might prevent its being us'd to ill Purposes. The whole Drift of it is, not to give Power, farther than seem'd necessary, for putting a Stop to, and detecting Fraud.

There is not one New Officer propos'd by it, except such as shall be appointed in the Registry-Office in *London*: And, as the Constables Books, and the Duplicates of the Traders Books will remain in their own Hands; and the original Accounts, after being transcrib'd in the Office, are to be return'd with the printed Copies to the several Clerks of the Peace, there to remain; there can be no falsifying Accounts without apparent Danger of Discovery.

With the same View, the Salaries in the Registry Office are set low; that the Persons employ'd in them may be Men of Business and Application; and many honest Tradesmen, who have been reduc'd thro' Losses and Misfortunes, may easily be found, who wou'd be glad to accept them.

For the same Purpose, the Register and his Deputy are propos'd, to be nominated by the Right Honourable the House of Commons; the most proper Hands, in my apprehension, for such Power to be lodg'd in, with whom our Liberties and Properties are so much intrusted.

Though, after all, I can hardly call it a Power, that is lodg'd in any Hands by the following Scheme. It is more properly a Trust, and a Trust of such a Nature, as it will be difficult to wrest to any ill Ends.

Besides, it is propos'd, if a Law should be made pursuant to this Scheme, that it may be only for three Years at first. And in that time we shall probably perceive, whatever Inconveniencies may attend it; and whatever Defects there are, which want to be supplied; and, by help of the Regulations here propos'd, we shall get such an Insight into the Affair; as will enable us, to make safe and effectual Laws for the future. For, if such a Scheme be duly executed, it will be an easy Matter, in three Years time, to adjust the Wast, in working up all sorts of our Wool, so nearly; that there will be scarce a Possibility, of running any such Quantity, as can either considerably prejudice ourselves, or advantage Foreigners; without its being clearly detected, who the particular Persons are, who have been concern'd in such clandestin Practices. And this, I hope, may, in great Measure, be done even in less time, by comparing the Accounts of Traders residing in different Parts of the Kingdom. But indeed, in the Method propos'd, one Man will be such a Check upon another, that it will be extremely difficult to falsify Accounts without Discovery.

If any conceive, that the Multiplicity of Hands requir'd by this Scheme, and the Variety of Persons concern'd in it, will make the regular Execution of it difficult. I beg, it may be consider'd, whether it is not as little complicated, as the Nature of the Thing will bear.

Our Sheep are depastur'd in all Parts of the Nation: Our Manufacturies are carried on in Places far distant from each other; and the Variety of Goods, into which our Wool is manufactur'd, is so great, that it is even difficult to enumerate them, which of Course must occasion a great Diversity of Employments. The lawful and honest Method of conducting

conducting our Woolen Trade is such, as is suited to the Genius of a free People, every Man being at Liberty to chuse his Employ, and to settle, where he can manage it most to his Advantage.

These are real Advantages, if no ill Use is made of them; as they create a free Intercourse between, and promote a general Circulation of Trade thro' the several Parts of the Nation. But, if the Means serving to these Noble Purposes be abus'd; then some Remedy adequate, and as I may say, commensurate to the Evil, must be made use of. We must first therefore consider the Extent of the Evil, and then provide a Remedy, which will reach All Parts, which, at present, are affected by it, and all Denominations of Persons concern'd in it. If we leave one Channel open, thither will the Current of the Evil run; and only the more rapidly, for our having dam'd up the others.

I write according to the best of my Judgement; and, I hope, the Publick will pardon all involuntary Mistakes; and the following Sheets had never seen the Light, if it had not been my sincere Opinion, that Nothing, short of an Universal Registry, wou'd put an effectual Stop to the carrying out our Wool. Indeed, there seems to be a Necessity for it, if it were only to ascertain the Quantity of Wool we grow: For, amidst such a Variety of vastly disagreeing Computations; 'till that can be nearly fix'd, we seem to be talking pretty much in the Dark.

The Misfortune is, the very Word has fallen into Disgrace; and the plain Reason is, because it has convey'd to Gentlemen the Idea of an exclusive Company arm'd with such Powers, as they apprehended might prove dangerous. But, the Registry here propos'd, is contriv'd, as far as I was able, so as that
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the whole may be conducted in a Method neither oppressive nor impracticable; but as easy to all Persons, as was consistent with Security to the Publick.

In ordinary Villages, the Burden upon the Petty-Constable, and the Trouble to the Trader will be very inconsiderable. And, in Places of great Trade, Men vers'd in Business, and ready in the Dispatch of it, generally bear that Office. The High-Constables attend the Quarter-Sessions, and carry in the Bills from the Petty-Constables; which is an easy Way of conveying the Wool Accounts. The Clerk of the Peace has no more to do, than to pack them up along with the Accounts of the Traders in Wool; which being all indors'd, they are ready to be sort'd alphabetically, when they come to the Register's Hands.

The Penalties are set high with this View, that Those who have been guilty of Practices so highly injurious to the Publick, may be deterr'd from doing the like for the future, by the Dread of a severe Punishment; and that Others may be encourag'd, to discover the Transgressors, by the Hopes of a considerable Reward; and that to be come at with very little Trouble or Expence.

It has been observ'd, that Oaths have been made so cheap, that they have prov'd very insufficient to bind the Swearer; I therefore declin'd making use of so precarious an Expedient.

If it is thought, that the Task laid upon the Petty-Constables, is above the Capacity of many of them. I desire, it may be consider'd, that if it shall so happen, that a Petty-Constable may not be qualified for it, yet there is in every Parish at least One Pen-man, who does the Parish Business; and, it will be

be hard indeed, if he will not undertake it either for Pay, or through a Publick Spirit. Besides, in such Places where Persons are very illiterate, but little Business of this kind will lie upon their Hands. And, if such Regulations, as are here propos'd, shou'd pass into a Law: Certificates of all Sorts wou'd be printed, and it wou'd be easy for any Person, that was barely able to write, to fill up the Blanks.

By this Scheme it is propos'd, that all the Wool Accounts should be printed yearly, and lodg'd with the Clerk of the Peace, to be freely perus'd by any Person qualified as in *Article 16*. And this will be such a Check upon a Man, when he knows, that there are Means for discovering all unfair Practices, which great Numbers of Persons can readily come at; that he must be hardy indeed, who will run such a Risque of being detected.

And this, I hope, will obviate an Objection, that this Scheme may probably create the Justices a great deal of Trouble. Whereas, I am humbly of Opinion, that any clandestin Practices will hereby lye so open to Discovery; that all Persons will, in a little time, be entirely discourag'd from so much as attempting them.

If the fair Trader should object to the Trouble, that will attend the taking and keeping, and the giving Certificates. I beg, that he will withal consider the End, intended to be serv'd by it; — the preventing an Evil, which has been complain'd of, as having already well nigh ruin'd the Trade of the Nation; — and promoting a Good, in which the Publick, and every honest Man is highly interested. Besides, many Methods, which seem troublesome and intricate in Theory, when they are fully understood, and

and regularly reduc'd into Practice, become easy and familiar ; as might be shew'd in our present conducting many Branches of Trade.

If any object to the appointing publick Wool-winders ; they are desir'd to consider ; that, besides their being a Check upon the Grower, and the Petty Constable ; the Winding the Wool, in the manner directed, will create a mutual Confidence between Buyer and Seller ; and, by not breaking the Fleeces, will save a great deal of Trouble in sorting the Wool ; by which Means it will be advanc'd more in Price, than the Charge of it will be to the Grower. And the confining the Wool-winders to their several Districts, will be the Means of detecting any Frauds, which they shall have committed.

As to Wast, I have not attempted to calculate it ; and, considering the great Variety, there is in the Fineness of the Staple of our Wool ; the Difference there is, *at present*, in its being more or less clear from Dirt, &c. the many Ways of manufacturing it, and the vast Variety of Goods into which it is manufactur'd ; it would be no easy Matter, to make any Calculation, but what wou'd be subject to great Uncertainty. I have therefore taken a nearer, and, I think, a fairer Way to ascertain it for the present, [*See Article 13, Page 19.*] And if the Methods here propos'd be observ'd, we shall be able to adjust it hereafter with greater Exactness.

If it is said, that supposing a Law was made pursuant to this Scheme, there wou'd be great Danger that the Directions therein wou'd not be complied with ; and that we have Reason to fear this, from the Experience we have already had, of many beneficial Laws now in force, which yet are little put in Practice,

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The Matter of Fact, as to many wholesome Laws being disregarded, I readily allow. But I beg Leave to observe, that this Argument proves a great deal too much, and directly tends to shew, that the Legislature is very idly employ'd in making Laws, however beneficial in Theory, because they may fail to answer in Practice, for want of being put in Execution.

But this is not all: For, 1st, There are many good Laws enacted, which, tho' they concern the whole Community, yet are they little observ'd, because no particular Persons are appointed, specially to attend the Execution of them. 2^{dly}, There are many, which are never sufficiently promulg'd, and so fail, in the very first Instance, of being executed. 3^{dly}, Many Laws there are, in which only few People are interested, and therefore it cannot be expected, that they shou'd meet with a general Regard. 4^{thly}, In many Laws it is not readily discoverable, by any but curious Observers, that they wou'd in Fact be so beneficial, as they are really intended to be. 5^{thly}, In several of our penal Laws the Penalty is set so low, that many Persons think it worth while to run the Hazard of breaking them; and it is hardly worth any One's while, to give himself the Trouble of informing against them. Especially, as 6^{thly}, Those Penalties are not to be recover'd, but at great Expence in *Westminster-Hall*; where all the *Finess* imaginable is often us'd to defeat the Informer of his just Reward. And 7^{thly}, If he discontinues Suit, or fails of making good his Information according to Law, and agreeable to the critical and refin'd Constructions made of it, then he is saddled with treble Costs. Now, I humbly apprehend, that if the following Scheme be carefully attended to; it will be found calculated, to obviate all these Difficulties. [*For the two last Particulars, see Article 27.*]

There is another Thing, which, I hope, I may be indulg'd

indulg'd the Freedom to observe ; which is this, that there are critical Times for the making Laws ; and the right Timeing them very much promotes and facilitates the Execution of them. When an Evil rises high, and is very sensibly felt ; when the Complaints of it are grown general and popular ; and the Hopes of a Remedy are excited and quicken'd ; then is the proper Time, to expect, that People will lay themselves out, to look most carefully, after the Execution of the Means design'd to prevent it.

I am sensible, that many Things might be allow'd to the Inhabitants of the Inland Counties, which it wou'd not be safe, to allow to those near the Sea Coasts. But, tho' the High-Court of Parliament may make such Indulgences ; for a private Person to propose them, wou'd be look'd upon very assuming ; and wihal , acting an odious Part, with regard to These ; and a partial one with regard to the Others. This is too delicate an Affair for me to be particular in ; this I declare, in general, that I do most heartily subscribe to every Thing, that will contribute to the Interest and Ease of the fair Trader, consistent with the Publick Good. But, if the Method here propos'd, shou'd be order'd to be every where observ'd ; I do not doubt, but, when once People had got the Way of it, it wou'd grow easy by Use ; and be no manner of Clog to Business, nor give any Trouble deserving Complaint.

I conclude with my most sincere and hearty Wishes and Prayers, that God will so influence the Hearts of the Members of the present Parliament, that they may make effectual Provision, for securing to us our Trade ; and the sole manufacturing this valuable Material, which Heaven has bless'd our Country with the Production of, above any other in the known World ; and that he will guard his Majesty, and his People, from all open and secret Enemies.

POSTSCRIPT.

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1st. **W**Henever the Terms, *Wool not fully manufactur'd*, occur, I desire to be understood, to exclude Wadding from being exported, or any Woollen Goods so loosely manufactur'd, as to be reducible again to Wool or Yarn, so as to be work'd up again into other Goods, at less Expence than Shillings for every Pound Weight.

2^{dly}, That whenever I have us'd the Term *Place of Abode*, I mean to include the Constabulary, wherein the Person lives.

3^{dly}, I humbly submit it, whether, in Case of the Sale of Sheep in *Smithfield*, the Salesman's or Drover's Account; or a Copy thereof, without Price, attested by the late Proprietor of Sheep and the Drover, may not be sufficient.

4^{thly}, If it is apprehended, that any Interruption of Trade will be occasion'd, by an intire Prohibition to carry Wool Coastwise; that may be settled in the same Manner as the Carriage from *Ireland* to *England*. But certainly, it would be a Liberty, that a very ill Use might be made of; and therefore shou'd not be indulg'd, as I humbly conceive, without apparent Necessity, and the utmost Caution to prevent the Abuse of it.

5^{thly}, That, upon many Occasions where I use the Word *shall*, I desire to be understood, not to use it

it Magisterially, as dictating what must be done; but only as a shorter Way of recommending, what I humbly apprehend may be proper to be done.

6thly, It is most humbly submitted, if an Account was ordered to be given in, of the Woollen Goods fully manufactur'd, which had been enter'd for Exportation, at the several Ports for ten Years last past, distinguishing each Year; and also for three Years or more in like Manner, during the last War with *France*; whether That wou'd not afford some Light as to the Quantity of Wool smuggled to foreign Parts.

7thly, If it is thought proper, the Wool-winders need only be appointed by the Justices in Sessions, or by the Grand-Jury at the Lent Assizes.

Morcot, Rutland,
near Uppingham,
November 19.

H. Laybourne.

1742.



The.



T H E
C O N T E N T S.

A R T I C L E I.

‘ **T**HAT a sufficient Number of Copies of
‘ the Act, and of Specimens of the
‘ Certificates be sent to the several Clerks of
‘ the Peace. Page 1.

II. ‘ That the Clerks of the Peace, within six
‘ Days after the Receipt of them, send them to
‘ the several High-Constables. Ibid.

III. ‘ That the High-Constables, within three
‘ Days after the Receipt of them, send them to
‘ the several Petty-Constables. Page 2.

IV. ‘ That, within six Days after Notice
‘ given by the Petty-Constable, all Growers of
‘ Wool shall certify to him their Number of
‘ Sheep and Lambs, and what Wool they
‘ have unfold, And all Dealers in Wool not
‘ fully manufactur’d shall give in to him like-
‘ wise a particular Certificate of the Wool,
‘ &c. which they have not fully manufactur’d.
‘ All which Accounts the Petty-Constable shall
‘ copy in a Book, and then send the Originals
‘ seal’d

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‘ seal’d up to the High-Constable, who shall
 ‘ deliver them at the next Quarter Sessions to
 ‘ the Clerk of the Peace, to be by him sent
 ‘ up to the Register. *Ibid.*

V. ‘ Growers of Wool shall certify to the
 ‘ Petty-Constable all Changes of Stock, which
 ‘ the Petty-Constable shall enter in his Book,
 ‘ and yearly transmit the Originals as in the
 ‘ former Article. He shall also enter the
 ‘ Names of all trading in Wool not fully ma-
 ‘ nufactur’d. Persons not giving in their
 ‘ Names to be disqualified. *Page 4.*

IV. ‘ No Sheep except fat ones to be shorn
 ‘ but at the usual time of shearing, and Notice
 ‘ thereof to be given to the Petty-Constable.
 ‘ No Fleeces to be broken by the Owners. Old
 ‘ Wool in the Growers Possession unfold to be
 ‘ wound by the Woolwinder. *Page 6.*

VII. ‘ Publick Wool-winders to be chosen
 ‘ yearly, when, and by whom. Security to be
 ‘ given by them. Their Districts to be settled
 ‘ by the Justices in Sessions. Their Business,
 ‘ Engagement, and Pay. No Fleeces to be
 ‘ broken by them. The Wool to be clear’d
 ‘ by them from Clags, Dirt, &c. In case of
 ‘ Neglect to be fin’d by the Justices in Ses-
 ‘ sions. *Page 7.*

VIII. ‘ No Wool of fat Sheep to be wound,
 ‘ if clipp’d by the Owner, till next Shearing-
 ‘ Tide. *Page 11.*
 ‘ except by Allowance of two Justices of the
 ‘ the Peace. [See Art. 7. Page 10.]

IX. ' No Wool to be remov'd by the Grow-
 ' er, without Certificates by him given to the
 ' Constable from whence, and to the Constable
 ' whither it is remov'd. Certificates of Wool
 ' sold by the Grower to the Buyer to be
 ' interchangeably given to each other. The
 ' Grower within ten Days to deliver the Buyer's
 ' Certificate to the Petty-Constable. *Ibid.*

X. ' Justices in Cases of Information shall
 ' grant Warrants to search. Wool seiz'd, where
 ' to be lodg'd. If there is just Suspicion of
 ' Fraud, or Informer will give Security, the
 ' Party inform'd against shall give Security for
 ' the full Penalty ; and, in Default thereof,
 ' shall be committed to Goal till the next
 ' Sessions. *Page 12.*

XI. ' High-Constables or Petty-Constables
 ' may, within their own Constableries, require
 ' Persons inform'd against to produce Licenses
 ' and Certificates, and may search for, and stop
 ' Wool suspected, &c. and detain and carry De-
 ' faulters before a neighbouring Justice. *Page 13.*

XII. ' All Wool buyers to be licens'd by Ju-
 ' stices in Sessions, and no natural Subject of
 ' Great-Britain to be refus'd offering sufficient
 ' Security. Servants or Agents to such
 ' Wool-buyers, not to buy Wool, without an
 ' attested Copy of such License indors'd to
 ' them by the Master. Felony to trade with-
 ' out such License, or with a forg'd License,
 ' or under a feign'd Name. If an Agent or
 ' Servant is found guilty of Male-Practices,

‘ how Justices are to act, with regard both to
 ‘ Master and Agent, &c. *Page 14.*

XIII. ‘ Every Buyer to enter in a Book his
 ‘ own Name, &c. and all Wool, bought, sold,
 ‘ or manufactured by him, and shall deliver
 ‘ such a Book signed by himself to every
 ‘ Agent, &c.

‘ Certificates of Wool bought by him shall
 ‘ be given therein.

‘ Every Article to be kept distinct. Such
 ‘ Book to be sent yearly, seal’d up, to the Clerk
 ‘ of the Peace. Duplicate thereof to be
 ‘ kept for his own Use. When he shall be
 ‘ obliged to produce it. How to act when his
 ‘ Book is stolen, or lost, &c. Felony to take
 ‘ it from him, or for himself wilfully to de-
 ‘ stroy it. Penalty for altering or falsifying
 ‘ Accounts. All proper Allowances to be made
 ‘ for Wast. In Cases of Suspicion only of
 ‘ Fraud, how Action of Information to be
 ‘ try’d. Fell-mongers. *Page 16.*

XIV. Carders, Combers, Spinners, and Wea-
 ‘ vers, to have their Accounts enter’d in a
 ‘ Book, and to give in such Book yearly to
 ‘ the Constable, to be deliver’d to the Clerk
 ‘ of the Peace, &c. Where they cannot write,
 ‘ their Book to be produc’d every three Months
 ‘ before the Petty-Constable, *Page 20.*

XV. ‘ Officers of Excise to take down the
 ‘ Number of Sheep-skins, and Lamb-skins,
 ‘ at Fell-mongers, Skinners, &c. and to trans-
 ‘ mit

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‘ mit such Accounts yearly to the Clerk of the
‘ Peace, &c. Page 21.

XVI. ‘ One Head-Register and a Deputy to
‘ be appointed by Parliament, with Clerks to
‘ them, to receive and transcribe alphabetically,
‘ all Accounts transmitted to them from every
‘ Constabulary in *Great Britain*, and to present
‘ yearly correct Copies to the two Houses of
‘ Parliament, and the Board of Trade, and to
‘ send, along with the Originals, two printed
‘ Copies yearly to every Clerk of the Peace,
‘ to one of which free Access to be had by any
‘ Freeholder of *Ten Pounds per Annum*, or
‘ Farmer of *Fifty Pounds per Annum*, within
‘ the County, &c. Scrutineers or Searchers
‘ with Clerks to be appointed in the Registry
‘ Office to compare Accounts. If any of them
‘ detect Frauds, to be entitled to the same
‘ Share in the Penalties with other Informers.
‘ Their Places to be annual. Disqualified in
‘ case of wilful Neglect. Page 22.

XVII. ‘ Persons buying Wool to spin for
‘ their own Use, and those of whom they buy
‘ the Wool; and poor People for knitting
‘ Stockings, or for small Parcels of Woollen
‘ or mix’d Goods, need certify only once a
‘ Year to the Petty-Constable. Page 24.

XVIII. ‘ Wool to be carried by Buyers, only
‘ in Packs, Half-Packs and Pockets, with the
‘ Proprietor’s Name at full Length.

‘ The Tod and Stone of Wool to be every
‘ where equal.

‘ Wool

‘ Wool pack’d up in Casks, Boxes, &c. or
 ‘ under the Appearance of Woollen Goods
 ‘ fully manufactur’d, to be forfeited ; and the
 ‘ Persons concern’d in Packing, or carrying it,
 ‘ to be subject to Penalties and Forfeitures.
 ‘ Carriers of it by Land or Water, upon their
 ‘ informing of it, to be exempt from Penalties,
 ‘ and intitled to Reward. *Page 25.*

XIX. ‘ No Wool to be carried at all by Wa-
 ‘ ter, but in the Boats, Barges, &c. of such
 ‘ Masters as usually trade upon the River
 ‘ where it is put on Board. Certificates to be
 ‘ given where it is put on Board, and also
 ‘ where it is deliver’d. Certificate of the
 ‘ Delivery, to be given, within fourteen Days
 ‘ after Date, to the Constable where it was
 ‘ put on Board. *Page 26.*

XX. ‘ No Wool to be put on Board Vessels
 ‘ in Sea Ports, or where they are in Danger of
 ‘ being driven out to Sea, nor in any Creeks,
 ‘ nor to be carried upon the open Sea, except
 ‘ such only as shall be imported from *Ireland*,
 ‘ under a Penalty to the Master of the Vessel
 ‘ of Five Pounds for ever Potund Weight of
 ‘ Wool ; and of Five Pounds to each of the
 ‘ Ship’s Crew, and six Months Imprisonment.
 ‘ But, upon their informing, to be exempt
 ‘ from the Penalty, and intitled to the Re-
 ‘ ward. Freighters, Insurers, and Owners,
 ‘ if privy thereto, to be also liable to the Pe-
 ‘ nalty. *Page 27;*

XXI. ‘ Traders

XXI. ' Traders in Wool near the Sea to keep
' no Wool un-manufactur'd, but only in such
' Rooms, &c. as they shall first have enter'd
' with the Petty Constable *Page 28*

XXII. ' How Petty Constables, High Consta-
' bles, Clerks of the Peace, Justices, and Re-
' gister, are severally to act, in case of Neg-
' lect in sending in Accounts. The Informa-
' tions to be given thereupon. *Ibid.*

XXIII. ' A Man's own Hand or Mark, if
' there is no apparent Mistake, Evidence against
' himself. Constables or Traders Books when
' to be allow'd as Evidence. *Page 29.*

XXIV. ' Substance of Information and Evi-
' dence sign'd by the Informer and Prosecutor,
' and Determination of Justices thereupon,
' sign'd by such Justices, if at Sessions by the
' Clerk of the Peace, to be yearly sent up to
' the Register by the Clerk of the Peace. *Ibid.*

XXV. ' Neat Penalties, One Third to his
' Majesty ; the other Two Thirds to Informer
' and Prosecutor. *Page 30.*

XXVI. ' Method to raise Money to pay Par-
' ties concern'd in taking Accounts. *Ibid.*

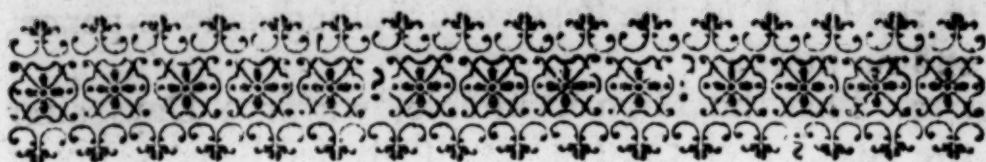
XXVII. ' All fair Allowances to be made in
' behalf, and nothing to be interpreted rigorous-
' ly to the Prejudice of the fair Trader. Pro-
' secutions to be only before Justices. No
' Pleadings to be admitted. Difficult Points

‘ to be certified to the Register; and the Ex-
‘ pence born by the Registry ’till the Pleasure
‘ of Parliament be known therein. In vex-
‘ atious and litigious Suits Informer to pay
‘ Costs and reasonable Damages. Justices De-
‘ terminations final, except where the Right
‘ Honourable the House of Commons shall
‘ judge otherwise.

Page 32.



A S C H E M E



A

S C H E M E,

T O P R E V E N T T H E

E x p o r t a t i o n o f W o o l , & c .

In case the Wisdom of Parliament shall think proper to make an Act to prevent the Exportation of Wool unmanufactur'd :

It is most humbly propos'd,

1. **T**H A T such Act, and also a Specimen of all the several Sorts of Certificates therein requir'd be immediately printed; and such a Number of Copies of each sent by the Register to every Clerk of the Peace, as may be sufficient for that particular County, Riding, or Division, in which he is concern'd; and the Clerk of the Peace shall account to the Register for one Shilling for each Township for such Copies.

2. That every Clerk of the Peace, within six Days after the Receipt of the Copies, shall send such a Number of them to every High-Constable within his County, Riding, or Division, as there are Petty-Constables within such High-Constabulary, respective-

ly ; for each of which the High-Constable shall pay to the Clerk of the Peace one Shilling and Six-pence, and no more.

3. That the High-Constable, within 3 Days after the Receipt of the Copies, shall send one Copy of each to every Petty-Constable within his Constabulary ; for which he shall receive from each Petty-Constable two Shillings, and no more.

4. That every Petty-Constable, within six Days after receiving the Copies, shall give Notice either personally * or in Writing [No. 1.] to every Person ; and in case of Absence, then to the Wife, Steward, Foreman, or Overteer of the Grounds of every such Person, who has any Sheep or Lambs depasturing within his Constabulary ; and also to every Person, who has or is reputed to have, any Wool not fully manufactur'd within his Constabulary : Requiring all, and every such Person and Persons, within six Days after such Notice, to give in Writing to him the said Petty - Constable a particular and true Account [No. 2.] of the Number of Sheep and Lambs, respectively, which he has then depasturing within the said Constabulary : and also what Wool he has not fully manufactur'd ; distinguishing [No. 3.] what particular Weight he has in the Fleece or Wool ; what Weight he has comb'd ; what Weight he has in the Yarn ; or any wise not fully manufactur'd or work'd up : which Account shall be dated, and sign'd by the Possessor of such Stock.

* The

* What I mean here, is this, that if the Constable does not personally give Notice ; then he shall deliver to his Servant, or whom he deposes for that Purpose, in Writing, a Form of the Notice to be given, such as is exemplified, No. 1. which such Servant or Deputy shall read over to every Person to whom he gives Notice, and shall set down every Person's Name to whom he gives Notice, and the Day of the Month on which he gave it.

* The said Accounts shall all be distinctly enter'd by the said Petty-Constable ; or whom he shall employ for that Purpose ; in a Book, to be provided at the Charge of the Parish ; and, within six Weeks, to be computed from the Time of his receiving the Copies of the Act and Certificates, the original Accounts, † sealed up, and superscrib'd on the Outside, with his own Name, and the Name of his Constabulary, shall be carefully transmitted to the High-Constable ; who, without breaking the Seal, shall deliver them to the Clerk of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions next ensuing. And the Clerk of the Peace, within fourteen Days after, shall transmit them to the Register in London, in such manner as directed in Article the 13th. §

The Penalties for Neglect, shall be, twenty Shillings for every Sheep, and ten Shillings for every Lamb, and for every Pound of Wool not fully manufactur'd, which shall be wilfully secreted, or privily alienated and carry'd off, after passing the Act, and not accounted for by the Possessor or Owner.

The Clerks of the Peace, the High-Constables, and the Petty-Constables, in case of Neglect, shall be fin'd by the Justices, at the Quarter Sessions next ensuing ; in proportion, as they shall judge such neglect, to have been more, or less, wilful.

B 2

5. That,

* If it is thought proper, for farther Security it may be requir'd, that the several Proprietors of Lands ; the Landholders and Tenants, or both, within Miles of the Sea, should give in the Estimates of the Number of Sheep, which the several Farms or Townships belonging to them have, upon an Avarage, maintain'd : And that the Accounts given in by Tenants be sign'd by such Tenants, and also by the Minister of the Parish where such Lands lie.

† If it is judg'd necessary, it may be requir'd, that the Petty-Constable's Book, and the several Certificates shou'd be yearly produc'd at a Parish Meeting (of which publick Notice shou'd be given, a Week before he sends them to the High Constable) to be by the Parishioners perus'd, and sign'd by three or more of Credit, of which the Minister of the Parish to be one.

§ It is humbly submitted, what Penalties shall be laid upon Petty-Constables, &c. for Default.

5. That, after the first Registering, every Owner and Possessor of Sheep or Lambs, under the same Penalty, as before in Article 4th, shall give in Writing to the Petty-Constable of the Township, or Constabulary, where such Sheep or Lambs have been, or shall be depastur'd after the first Registering, an Account dated, and sign'd by such Possessor, of all Changes in his Stock, within thirty Days after such Change shall happen : specifying particularly, what Number of Sheep or Lambs he has bought, or sold ; on what Day, at what Place ; and of whom they were bought, or to whom they were sold : distinguishing their Names, and Places of Abode : (No. 4.) and also, when he shall have kill'd any, *either for his own Use, or for Sale* ; * also *expressing*, when any shall have died ; and also what Skins or Morts ; and what Skin, Mort, or Pelt Wool he shall have sold, and to whom ; and also when any of his Sheep or Lambs shall have been stol'n, or have stray'd, † (as near as he can) or shall have been any otherwise ———, either totally, alienated, or removed, for a time only. (No. 5.) Which Account the Petty-Constable shall immediately enter in his Book ; and, the Week next before every Easter Sessions, he shall carefully send the Originals, seal'd up, with his own Name, and the Name of the Township or Constabulary to which he belongs, superscrib'd on the Outside, to the High-Constable ; who shall deliver them, without breaking the Seal, to the Clerk of the Peace at the Easter Session next ensuing.

The Book of Entries shall be deliver'd up by the Old Constable to the New One, as soon as he quits his

* Butchers are not intended to be included in this, farther than what they kill of their own Stock.

† If it shall be thought too troublesome, to give in a Monthly Account, of the several Particulars express'd in the Certificate, No. 5 ; It may suffice, to require it to be done Monthly, from Lady-Day till Michaelmas ; and once only for the rest of the Year, and the Certificate for such half Year to be given in a Week before Easter.

his Office ; and along with it, the Copy of the Act against Exporting of Wool, and also the Specimen of Certificates.

The Petty-Constable shall enter in his Book the Names of all Persons, possess'd of Sheep depasturing in his Constabulary ; or trading in Wool not fully manufactur'd, that live within his Constabulary ; and in what Branch of the Woollen Trade they are employ'd ; for which he shall be entitl'd to One Penny for every Score of Sheep or Lambs : and, upon every Change of Stock, at the Rate of One Penny the Score, be it ever so little Time that they shall depasture within his Constabulary ; except for two or three Nights at most, when they are upon Drift : And also to from every trading Spinner, above Years of Age ; and for every Loom employ'd in the Woollen Trade, to ; and from every Comber, to , and from every Factor, Hosier, or Clothier, to ; and from every Person employ'd, for Hire, in any Branch of the Woollen Trade, above Years of Age, at the least to Two-pence, who does then live, or shall at any time after live, within the said Constabulary : And, until they are so register'd, they shall be disqualify'd, to follow any Branch of the Woollen Trade. And, any Person neglecting, or refusing, to be thus register'd ; or to pay the Petty-Constable for registering them ; and afterwards pursuing any Business in the Woollen Trade ; the Petty Constable shall, within fourteen Days after such Neglect or Refusal, give, or send, to the High-Constable of the Division, a written Certificate ; with his own Name subscrib'd, specifying the Name of such Defaulters ; and the High-Constable shall deliver in all such * Certificates to the Clerk of the Peace, at the Quarter Sessions

B 3

next

* The Names of Spinners neglecting to register themselves, need not be transmitted to the Register ; it may be sufficient, to leave them to be punish'd by the Justices only ; and therefore, their Names may be given in a separate Certificate. But, as to other Defaulters, besides their being punish'd by the Justices, it may be proper, that the Publick should know, who they are.

next ensuing; who shall immediately lay them before the Justices, and they shall fine them, to the best of their Judgment, according to the Offence.

And every Person, who has a Frechold of forty Shillings the Year within the Parish, or farms ten Pounds the Year within the Parish, shall have Liberty to inspect the Constable's Books, without Fee, or Reward.

6. That no Proprietor of Sheep or Lambs, shall clip or shear any Sheep or Lambs, under the Penalty of twenty Shillings for every Sheep, and ten Shillings for every Lamb, so clip'd or shorn; at any other time of the Year, but only between the first of May and the first of August, * except such only as are fat. And that Notice of his clipping such fat Sheep, and their Number, shall within six Days after they are clipt, be given in Writing to the Petty-Constable. [No. 6.] And every Proprietor of Sheep or Lambs shall be oblig'd, to shear or clip them, in that Constabulary, wherein he has given Notice of their last depasturing. And, at the least two Days, and not longer than six, before the clipping or shearing them, he shall give Notice thereof to the Petty Constable, of the Township or Constabulary wherein they then depasture; together with the Number of Sheep and Lambs, respectively, which he then intends to shear or clip. [No. 7.] And, if it shall so happen, that he shall fail of shearing so many; or shall shear more, than he has given Account of to the Constable; that, then, he shall certify the same to the Constable, within eight Days after his shearing them.

And farther, that no Grower of Wool shall be allowed to break any of the Fleeces, or any way to alter or change the Property, or to alienate All, or
any

* This is design'd more particularly, to guard against a Practice; which, I am inform'd, is frequent upon Sea-Coasts. It is this; upon a foreign Vessel sending its Boat, into some little Creek in the Night; the Growers of Wool, upon Notice, will pen up their Sheep, clip them that very Night, and immediately deliver them the Wool, either for ready Money; or in Exchange for Brandy, low-pric'd Tea, Spices, or other run Goods.

any Part, or Parcel thereof; under the Penalty of twenty Shillings for every Fleece that is wanting, 'till such time as it is wound by the publick * Wool-winder for the District, or one specially deputed by him.

And whatever Wool, of former Years Growth, shall be in the Grower's Possession, at May-day next after the Passing of the Act; such Wool shall be produc'd before the Wool-winder of the District, before the first of next ensuing; and if unwound, shall be wound and weigh'd by him, according to the Tenor of his Engagement; for which he shall be intitled to Six-pence the Score; if wound, it shall be counted over as to the Number of Fleeces, and weighed; and the Woolwinder shall enter the same in his Book, without Fee or Reward. The Penalty shall be twenty Shillings for every Fleece, or five Shillings for ever Pound Weight of Wool, wilfully conceal'd, secreted, &c.

* 7. That Woolwinders shall be chosen by Freeholders of ten Pounds the Year, of the County, Riding, or Division, where they are to serve, at a General Quarter Sessions; that they shall be Men of fair Characters; and give Security, each Woolwinder of ten Pounds, by himself or Sureties, to act according to the Tenor of his Engagement; (which see.) After they are chosen, they shall be admitted, by subscribing to the Engagement their Names and Places of Abode, before the Justices of the Peace, at the General Quarter Sessions; in a Book, to be provided by the Clerk of the Peace, at the Charge of the County, or Division: for which, and for a printed Copy of
B 4 the

* N. That the Place of Woolwinder is not any new Place, but of long standing in many Counties in England; and their present Pay is Four-pence the Score. Their Business, and Engagement, &c. is much the same, as is here requir'd; except what regards the Choice of them, the settling their Districts, the Time for winding Wool, and their keeping an Account; for which it is judg'd reasonable to allow them Two-pence the Score extraordinary. They have their Licenses, at present, as I take it, from Black-wall Hall,

the Engagement he has enter'd into, each Woolwinder shall pay to the Clerk of the Peace One Shilling, and no more.

The Number of Woolwinders shall be settled, and their peculiar Districts assign'd them by the Justices, at the Quarter Sessions which shall happen next after the Act is pass'd; the Bounds of which no Woolwinder, or Journeyman, or Apprentice of such Woolwinder with his Master's Deputation, shall transgress; under a Penalty of five Shillings, for every Fleece of Wool which he shall wind, out of his own, or his Masters District. And, in case of any Default in the Journeyman, or Apprentice of any Woolwinder, acting under his Master's Deputation; if the Journeyman, or Apprentice is not able to pay the Penalty incur'd, the Master himself shall be answerable.

But, if thro' Sicknes, or any other Lett or Impediment, a publick Woolwinder shall be prevented from doing his Business; and shall depute a Brother Woolwinder to do it, then such Deputy shall be accountable in the same Manner, as he is in his own District; provided nevertheless, that such Deputy be one, who was chosen Woolwinder at a Quarter Sessions held for the said County, Riding, or Division with him who deposes him; and also, that the Woolwinder, deputing another in his Stead, do sign such Deputation in a Book; which Book the Deputy shall use, for entering every thing in the Principals District, in the same Manner as he uses his own Book in his own District; and shall make Entries of the Certificates, and do all such things, and be subject to the same Penalties, and intitled to the same Pay, as if it were in his own proper District.

The Place of Woolwinder to be annual; but, if no Poll be demanded, they shall continue in Office. The time for demanding a Poll, to be fix'd to the Lent Assizes. The Demand to be made, by the Grand Jury giving Notice to the Clerk of the Peace; and the Sheriff's Bailiff or Bailiffs shall give Notice thereof to the Petty-Jury, and to the High-Constables;

bles ; who shall, within fourteen Days, give Notice thereof to the Petty-Constables of the County, Riding, or Division; and moreover it shall be proclaimed three several times, the Court sitting. The Election of Woolwinders to be at the Easter Quarter-Sessions, and they to have Six-pence the Score for winding.

A Woolwinder's Engagement.

I. *A. B.* do hereby engage, truly, honestly, and faithfully, to execute the Office of Woolwinder, within the several Townships of *L. N. R.* in the County of _____, according to the true Intent and Meaning of a late Act of Parliament against exporting of Wool; pursuant to which, I will wind each Fleece, as near as I can, separately; without breaking the Fleeces, or winding together more Fleeces than one: neither will I put any thing into the Fleece, but what the Fleece itself consists of: And, I will also carefully clear each Fleece, before I wind it, from all Clags, Pitch Brands, Dirt, or Sticks; and will also cut off all dead Tops, and whatsoever is useless or unserviceable in working. And, I do also engage, that I will take down, in Writing, the Number of Fleeces, belonging to each particular Person, in the several Townships within my District; and also will see all the Wool, belonging to each Person, truly and carefully weigh'd; and will set down, in a Book which I shall yearly, and every Year, (so long as I continue Woolwinder) provide for that Purpose, the Number of Fleeces, and also the Weight of all the Wool, belonging to each Person; and also the Day and Year when I weigh'd it, and what Year's Growth it is of; and also I will enter, in the opposite Page of the said Book, within one Month of the time that I am to send my said Book to the Sessions, a true Copy of the Certificate, or Certificates, as they are enter'd in the Petty-Constable's Book, of the Sale of all, or any part of the said Wool; and in
case

(10)

case all is not sold, of what remains in Hand. And I do also engage, before every Easter Quarter Sessions, to enter into my Book for the Year following, all Particulars, of what Wool remains in every particular Person's Hands, according to the particular Certificates which shall have been by me copied; and so on from Year to Year, so long as I continue Woolwinder, and to allow any Person, that is known to me to be possess'd of ten Pounds the Year, or to farm fifty Pounds the Year, without Fee or Reward, to inspect the said Book, so long as it is in my Possession; and to take Copies, of any Particulars enter'd in the said Book: Which Book I do farther engage, to sign with my own Name; specifying also the particular Townships, therein accounted for; and, within a Week before every Easter Sessions, to carry, or send the same, seal'd up, and the Cover or Case indors'd with the Names of the Townships, whose Accounts are enter'd in the Book, either to the Clerk of the Peace, or to the High-Constable of the Constabulary wherein I live. And I do likewise engage, not to wind any Wool whatsoever, but only between May-Day and the first of September; except by Allowance from two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County or Division, under their Hands and Seals; to be tender'd to me, at the sole Cost and Charges of the Owner of the Wool: to which Engagement I do subscribe, this Day of

And any Woolwinder neglecting to do his Duty, according to the Tenor of his Engagement, shall be fin'd by the Justices of the Peace at the next Quarter Sessions after such Neglect; and, in proportion, as they shall judge such Neglect; to have been more, or less, wilful. But if any Woolwinder is found guilty, of aiding, assisting, or wilfully conniving, at the secreting, concealing, or privily conveying, and alienating, Wool not fully manufactur'd; then he, and likewise all Persons, whither Constables, or other Persons in Office, shall not only be disqualified, from bearing That, or any other Place, or Office of Trust, for

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for the future ; but shall moreover be subject to the Penalties, of twenty Shillings for the Fleece of every Sheep, and ten Shillings for the Fleece of every Lamb or Pound Weight of Wool, so secreted, or privily alienated.

8. That whenever the Owner of Sheep or Lambs, shall clip any fat ones, in order for the Sale of them ; he shall not only give Notice thereof in Writing to the Petty-Constable, where they depastur'd, within six Days after they are clipp'd, according to Article the 6th ; but shall moreover reserve the Fleeces of such Sheep, 'till the time of Shearing, which shall be next after the shearing of such fat Sheep, to be then wound by the publick Woolwinder. The Penalty for any alienated, before the publick Woolwinder shall have wound them, shall be twenty Shillings for the Fleece of every Sheep, and ten Shillings for the Fleece of every Lamb.

9. That every Grower of Wool in different Townships or Petty-Constableries ; in case he removes such Wool, while it is his Property, from one Constabulary to another ; under the Penalty of twenty Shillings a Fleece, shall, within ten Days after the Removal, certify the Number of Fleeces, and the gross Weight of the Wool so remov'd, both to the Constable of the Place, from whence ; and also to the Constable of the Place, to which it is removed : [No. 8.] which Certificates the Petty-Constables shall enter, each in their Books, within six Days after the Receipt of them.

And, whenever any Grower of or Possessor of Wool shall sell any Parcel, or Parcels of Wool, he shall give the Buyer, in his, (the Buyer's Book) a Certificate of the Wool sold : specifying both the Number of Fleeces, and the gross Weight, (except it be broken Wool, and then the gross Weight need only be specify'd) which Certificate shall be dated, as to the Day, Month, and Year, when sold ; to whom ; of what Place ; and in what County ; and the Seller shall subscribe it with his own Name
or

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or Mark ; with the Name of the Constabulary, and County wherein he lives. If it is the Grower of Wool, who sells it, he shall also specify, in that Certificate, what Wool he has then remaining unfold. [No. 9.]

And the Buyer shall likewise, on his Part, deliver to the Seller a Certificate ; expressing, that he bought of such Person, of such a Township, and County, so many Fleeces of Wool, amounting in the whole to such a Weight : also specifying particularly, what Year's Growth it is of ; or, in case it be broken Wool, then the gross Weight only ; which he shall date, and sign with his own Name, together with the Township, and County, where he lives : (No. 10.) which Certificate, the Seller under the Penalty of three Shillings for every Pound Weight of Wool alienated, shall, within ten Days, deliver unto the Petty-Constable : And, the said Certificate the Petty-Constable, within six Days after the Receipt thereof, shall enter into his Book ; and shall farther take especial Care, that the Warrants and original Certificates, regarding the Woollen Trade, deliver'd to him, shall, the Week next before every Easter Quarter Sessions, be carefully sent, seal'd up, in one Parcel, and superscrib'd with his own Name, and the Name of his Constabulary, to the High-Constable of the Division ; to be by him deliver'd, in like manner, to the Clerk of the Peace, at the Easter Quarter Sessions.

10. That, in case Information be given, upon Oath, before any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, of any fraudulent or clandestine Practices ; committed by any Person, in secreting, concealing, privily carrying, or alienating any Wool not fully manufactur'd ; or aiding and assisting therein ; contrary to the plain and obvious Sense, Intent, and Meaning of the Act ; that such Justice of the Peace shall immediately grant his General Warrant, directed to the High-Constables and Petty-Constables, so far as his Commission extends ; requiring them to make diligent Search, for all Wool suspected

suspected to be secreted, conceal'd, or privily alienated, and carried ; and also, for all Persons anywise concern'd ; or aiding, and assisting therein. And if such Wool be found, it shall be safely lodged, either in the Hands of the High-Constable of the Division, or of the Petty-Constable of the Constabulary, wherein it is found : (which shall be in the Choice of the Person, who claims to be the Owner thereof,) and shall not be redeliver'd ; without a Warrant for Redelivery thereof, directed to the Person with whom it is lodg'd, under the Hands and Seals of two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for that County, Riding, or Division. And whether the Wool is found, or not ; if the Justices shall judge, that there is just Suspicion of Fraud ; or if the Informer will give Security of 10 s the Tod, for making good his Information ; in such Case, the Person or Persons so inform'd against, shall give Security to the Justices, by him, or themselves, and by two other Persons of Substance ; for the full Penalty, for such Offence as they stand charg'd with, to appear, to answer such Complaint at the next Quarter Sessions, for that County, Riding, or Division ; or else, shall deposit the full Penalty in the Justices Hands. And, in default thereof, he, or they, shall be committed to Goal, 'till the next Quarter Sessions

11. That the High-Constable, or Petty-Constable, may themselves require ; and upon Information given to them against any Person, (of such clandestine Practices being by him committed, or suspected to be committed, within their Constableries, respectively, as are against the Act,) shall immediately require, the Person or Persons so inform'd against, to produce their License, and Certificates ; and, upon Refusal thereof, or not giving full Satisfaction therein ; he, they, or either of them, shall, without farther Warrant or Authority, have Power to make Search ; and to stop any Wool, which they themselves suspect, or are inform'd, has been bought by Persons, not licens'd to buy Wool according to the Act ; or, which is conceal'd

ceal'd in, or has been illegally convey'd into their Constabulary ; and to detain the Persons, concern'd in such Practices ; and carry them before any one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, who shall reside in, or near to, the said Constabulary ; who shall proceed, according to what is set down in Article the 10th.

12. That, after the Quarter Sessions which shall next ensue, after passing the Act, no Person shall be allow'd to buy Wool, above the Quantity of Pounds Weight [see Article 17] under the Penalty of twenty Shillings for the Fleece of every Sheep, and ten Shillings for the Fleece of every Lamb, or Pound Weight of Wool, so bought by him, without License * first obtain'd, under the Hands and Seals of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, at a Quarter Sessions, held for the County, Riding, or Division, wherein he lives ; for which he shall give one Shilling to the Justices Clerks, and no more. And that every Buyer, and every Agent, or Servant of such Buyer, whenever he goes from Home to buy Wool, shall take along with him, either the original License, or an attested Copy of such License ; which shall be indors'd by the Master to such Agent, or Servant, as he employs : and the Indorsement dated : Which License, or Copy of such License, he shall be obliged to produce, if requir'd by any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, High-Constables, or Petty Constables, in the several Districts where he shall be found trading, to be by them perus'd and examin'd : And, in Default, or Refusal thereof, he shall be proceeded against, as in Article the 10th.

And,

* It may be thought proper, that no Buyer of Wool should be licens'd, 'till he has given sufficient Security to the Justices, that he will not transport any Wool, or be aiding 'or assisting towards the transporting any, to foreign Parts : And that no Person offering sufficient Security, according to the Directions of Parliament, to the Justices of the Peace of the County where he is known to reside, and being one of his Majesty's natural Subjects, shall be denied such License.

And, if any Person shall be detected, trading without a License; or trading with a License, wherein the Names of the Justices, or his own Name shall have been forg'd; or with the Copy of a License which shall have been forg'd; or with the Name of the Master, or Indorser thereof, forg'd; or trading with a true License under a false, or forg'd, or feign'd Name; such Person shall be deem'd guilty of Felony, and shall be proceeded against as a Felon.

And, if any Agent, or Servant, of a licens'd Wool-buyer, shall be found guilty of any Male-Practices, contrary to the Intent and Meaning of the Act; the Wool, if it may be, shall be seiz'd; and the Persons, so acting, shall be proceeded against, as in Article the 10th. And the Fact shall be diligently enquir'd into, by the Justices of the Peace, at the Quarter Sessions next ensuing. And, if it shall clearly appear to them, that the Offence, committed by the Agent, or Servant, was done with the Privity, or Consent of his Master; or through his Encouragement; then they shall certify the same, to some one Justice of the Peace, of the County, and residing near to the Place, where such Master Wool-buyer lives, or where he has a considerable Stock in Trade; which Justice of the Peace, immediately, upon Receipt of such Certificate, shall send his Warrant, to levy the Penalties, according to what is specified in such Certificate. But, if the Offence shall not clearly appear to the Justices, to have been done with the Master's Privity, Consent, or Encouragement; then they shall give Orders, for the Clerk of the Peace to transmit a true Account of the Fact, and the Evidence, and Proceedings thereupon, to the Register in London; who shall lay the same before the Right Honourable the House of Commons, in the second Week of the Sessions of Parliament next ensuing: And in the mean time, the guilty Agent, or Servant, of such Wool-buyer, shall remain in Goal, 'till the Pleasure of Parliament shall be known therein.

13. That every licens'd Buyer of Wool shall, every Year, provide for himself, and for every Agent, or Servant, whom he shall employ to buy Wool, one, or more Books; wherein shall be made Entries, of all the Wool which he shall buy, or sell, or any-wise manufacture in such Year: In the first Page of which he shall enter his own Name, and the Name of the Town, Constabulary, and County where he lives. And, if the Book be for his Agent, or Servant; then he shall specify, that it is for such Agent, or Servant, and shall sign it himself. And afterwards, all Certificates, of Wool sold to him, shall be therein given, according to Article the 9th. But, in such Cases, where a Wool-buyer, or his Agent, or Servant, by him duly deputed, shall buy all, or a great Part of the Wool of a Township or Constabulary; there it shall be sufficient, any thing in Article the 9th to the contrary notwithstanding, (except where there is just Suspicion of any Fraud being design'd,) that two or three of the substantial Inhabitants of such Parish do subscribe the said Certificate, for the whole gross Weight, and the Number of Fleeces, in the Buyer's Book; one of which, at least, shall be present at the Delivery thereof to the Buyer; and the Place, where it is to be deliver'd, shall therein also be specified. And the Buyer shall give distinct Certificates, for every Person's Wool so bought, according to Article the 9th.

Moreover, in such Book, or Books, the Buyer shall also enter the Quantity, of such Wool as he shall sell; the Time, when it is sold; and to whom; specifying their Names, and Places of Abode; and, whether in raw, sorted, or comb'd Wool; or in Yarn; or manufactur'd. And, whenever he sells a whole Pack, or more, to any one Person, he shall take a Certificate thereof from such Person; which Certificate he shall carefully file up, for his own Vindication.

And farther, that in such Book or Books, what is bought, shall be kept distinct by itself; and also
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what is sold, shall be kept distinct by itself; and also, what is manufactur'd, shall be kept distinct by itself. And under the Article of Manufacture, shall be specified, into what particular Goods it is manufactur'd, and by whom. And once every Year, either a Week before the Easter Sessions; or, at any other Time, which the Parliament shall fix upon; he shall deliver, or send in, the said Book to the Clerk of the Peace, of the County, &c. where he resides, with the Sum Total, enter'd in the said Book, of what he has bought that Year; what he has sold; and what is remaining in hand; how much in raw Wool; in Wool sorted, or comb'd; in the Yarn; or at that Time deliver'd out to be manufactur'd: or fully manufactur'd; and into what Sort of Goods: At the Foot of which Account the Master shall subscribe his Name, with the Date, and Place of his Abode. * All which Accounts, within fourteen Days after the Receipt of them, shall, in one Parcel, double paper'd, be sent by every Clerk of the Peace to the Register in London; with the Name of the County, Riding, or Division, from which they are sent, superscrib'd on the inside Paper.

And further, That every Dealer in Wool, concern'd in this Article, shall have, for his own Use, a Duplicate of such Book; which he shall be oblig'd to produce before the Justices, at the Quarter Sessions, whenever he shall be requir'd so to do, under the Hands and Seals, of two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the County or Division, where he lives, or keeps a Stock in Trade; which Warrant nevertheless, shall not be granted by any Justice of Peace; except Information upon Oath, sign'd by the Informer or Informers, shall have been first given before such Justices, against such Dealer, for clandestine Practices, contrary to the Act; or an attested Certificate, setting forth, that he is justly suspected of
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* If each Trader be order'd to send in his Accounts seal'd up, and indors'd with the Name of the Township he lives in, it wou'd save some Trouble in sorting them above.

being guilty of fraudulent Practices, shall have been sent to them; either by the Register in London, or by some two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, under their Hands and Seals: And the said Book shall be examin'd, no farther, than it is necessary for clearing up the Matter, laid to his Charge.

Farther, That if any Dealer in Wool shall be robb'd of his Book; or shall lose it; or shall have it stolen, or privily convey'd from him; that, in all such Cases, he shall give immediate Notice thereof in the Gazette; and also in such News-Papers, as are usually circulated, in those Parts of the Country, where he lost it, or had it taken from him: And, any Person, concealing, or withholding it, after such Notice, shall be subject to such Penalties, as the Justices at their Quarter Sessions, shall judge reasonable, to be inflicted upon him. And the Dealer himself shall repair, to the several Constableries where he had bought, or sold any Wool, not fully manufactur'd; the Accounts whereof are enter'd in the said Book; and shall, from the several Constables Books, take a true Copy, of what he had bought, or sold; which Copy the Constables shall carefully examine, and certify the Truth thereof. And moreover he shall give Notice to all Persons, with whom he has had Dealings in the Woollen Trade, (the Particulars of which are not enter'd in the Constable's Book) since the last Delivery of his Accounts to the Clerk of the Peace; and procure from them such attested Certificates, as shall be sufficient, to clear him from the Charge of Fraud or Design. All which Certificates, and the Ballance thereupon, he shall deliver in to the Clerk of the Peace, in such manner, as he is directed to do his Book, when it is in his Possession. * And every Person, either forcibly, or privily, taking, or conveying away such Book, from any Dealer in Wool not fully manufactur'd; and also every Dealer in Wool not fully manufactur'd, or the Agent, or Ser-

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* This is to prevent an Excuse, which wou'd probably be made by a Trader, who had been guilty of unfair Practices; namely, that he had been robb'd of his Book.

vant of such Dealer, upon Conviction, of his having destroy'd, and wilfully made away with his own Book, shall be deem'd guilty of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

And no Dealer in Wool not fully manufactur'd shall alter his own Book ; or procure, or allow it, to be alter'd by any other ; or shall enter any false Account, in any Weaver's, Carder's, Comber's, or Spinner's Book ; or shall make any Alteration therein, except only to correct Mistakes ; (and that shall be done, not by altering any thing in the first Account, but only by a Memorandum to give Notice of such Mistake) under the Penalty of twenty Shillings for every Fleece, or five Shillings for every Pound Weight, alter'd with any fraudulent Intention. And the Penalty shall be the same, with regard to the Constable, and, his Book.

That all proper Allowances shall be made for Waste ; and, in Cases of Information upon Oath, before any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace ; (of which speedy Notice shall be given, by such Justices, to the Clerk of the Peace, in case the Affair is referr'd to the Sessions;) or, in case of Certificate from the Register, of Suspicion of Fraud being committed by any Person ; that then, two or more Persons, of good Character, concern'd in that particular Branch of the Woollen Trade, in which the Fraud is suspected to have been committed, shall be summon'd, by the Clerk of the Peace, to appear at the Sessions ; and, shall either be impanel'd upon the Jury, or be examin'd upon Oath, by the Justices and Jury, before whom the Action of Information is try'd.

This Article shall extend to all Clothiers, Hosiers, Wool-Staplers, Wool-Combers, Woollen-Weavers, who trade or weave upon their own Bottom, or employ others to weave for them ; and to all others who buy Wool not fully manufactur'd, in order to sell it out again, either manufactur'd, or unmanufactur'd.

Provided, that Fellmongers, in the Articles of Skins ; and of Pelts or Morts, and Pelt or Mort

Wool ; shall not be oblig'd to take Certificates from the Persons of whom they shall buy them ; but shall only distinguish the Skins, from the Pelts or Morts, and set down what Number of each they buy ; when, and where ; and likewise the Sale of the Wool again ; when, and to whom, and shall, in the Sale thereof, conform, to what is express'd in this Article. And over and above, they shall set down the Number of Skins or Morts they sell, and to whom, without their own paying the Duty to his Majesty for them.

14. Every Weaver shall provide a Paper-Book, in which he shall first enter his own Name, and Place of Abode, and what Constabulary it is in ; and then he shall enter in the said Book the Weight, of all Woollen Yarn, which he shall receive from the Clothier, or from any other Person, to be work'd up ; together with the Time, when it is delivered to him ; by whom ; and for whose Use ; with the Name of the Constabulary, in which the Person lives. And, when it is work'd up ; then, in the opposite Page, he shall enter what sort of Woollen Goods it was work'd into ; and shall set down the gross Weight of the Goods into which the Parcel of Wool, deliver'd to him, was work'd ; and the Time, when such Goods were deliver'd. But, if the Weaver cannot write himself ; then, the Person delivering it in Yarn to the Weaver ; and also the Person to whom the Weaver shall deliver it back again work'd up ; shall enter it in the Weaver's Book, in such manner as is here directed, and subscribe his own Name ; and shall afterwards read it over to the Weaver. And, in such Case, where the Weaver cannot write ; the Book shall be produc'd, before the Petty-Constable where he lives, once in every three Months, by the Weaver himself ; and the Petty-Constable shall have Power to examine it, and the Weaver who deliver'd it ; so far, 'till he is satisfied, there is no Fraud. And, if he has just Suspicion of any Fraud, he shall, within six Days, certify the same to one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for that

that County, or Division; who shall send proper Warrants, to summon such Persons to appear (before him, and one other of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the same County) as he shall judge proper, for clearing up the Affair; which two Justices shall proceed, and certify their Proceedings thereupon, as in Article the 24th. And, within fourteen Days before Easter Sessions, the Weaver's Book for that Year, dated, and sign'd by himself, shall be deliver'd by him, to the Petty-Constable of the Township where the Weaver lives, to be by him transmitted, as is before directed, to the High Constable.

Likewise the Weight of all Wool deliver'd to the Carder, Comber, and Spinner; and the Weight of such Wool when it is deliver'd back again, shall be accounted for in like manner, as the Weaver is accountable.

15. It is most humbly propos'd; that Instructions be given to his Majesty's Officers of Excise; that, whenever they shall weigh the Sheep Skins, or Lamb Skins at the Fellmongers, Skinners, or Glovers, in order for their paying Duty; they shall also, at the same time, enter down the Number of them; together with the Name of the County, and Constabulary, wherein each Fellmonger, &c. lives; in one, or more stitch'd Books; according as they shall happen to be concern'd, in one, or more Counties, Ridings, or Divisions of Counties: which Book, or Books, in case of Removal, they shall deliver to the Person, to whom they shall deliver their Books of Excise; which Book, or Books they shall also produce, whenever they are requir'd so to do, under the Hands and Seals of two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace. And fourteen Days before the Easter Sessions, they shall deliver the said Book, or Books, sign'd by themselves, and seal'd up, with the Name of the County, Riding, or Division of County, to which the said Accounts belong; to some one Petty-Constable, or High-Constable of that County, Riding, or Division; who shall take care, to deliver them to

the Clerk of the Peace, at the Easter Sessions following. And the Officer of Excise shall immediately make Entry, in his Book for the next Year, to whom he deliver'd his last Year's Account.

16. It is most humbly propos'd ; that, immediately after passing an Act against exporting Wool, &c. the High Court of Parliament may appoint one Head Register, at the yearly Salary of 200 Pounds; and one Deputy, at the yearly Salary of 100 Pounds; and the Head Register shall appoint two Clerks under him, who shall be paid, each of them, 50 Pounds a Year; and more, or fewer; with greater, or less Salaries, as they shall judge proper; * to receive all Accounts, which shall be transmitted to the Register's Office from all Parts of Great-Britain. Which Office shall be kept at some Place in the Cities of either London or Westminster, or where shall be judg'd most proper. And publick Notice, of the Place where it is kept, shall be immediately given in the Gazette. And the Register, in transcribing for the Press, the Accounts sent to him, shall take Care, that the particular Accounts for South-Britain be sorted by themselves; and also, that the particular Accounts for North-Britain be sorted by themselves, likewise, that the Counties in each be rang'd alphabetically; and that, under each County, the Townships or Constablers, be rang'd alphabetically. And, under each Township or Constablers, the Accounts from the Petty-Constable of that Constablers shall be set down first; and, next to them, the Woolwinder's Accounts; and then the Accounts transmitted, in the several Books, from every Clothier, Hosier, Woolstapler, Fellmonger, Comber, Weaver,

Spinner,

* It may not be amiss that in the Register's Office, and independent of the Register, Persons may be appointed in the Nature of Searchers or Scrutineers, with two Clerks to each, to peruse and compare each Man's Accounts, with the Accounts of those with whom he has had Dealings, and to make Report of all Defaults to the Right Honourable the Two Houses of Parliament: And the Charge of this will easily be defray'd, by the Ballance which remain in the Register's Hands.

Spinner, Carder, and other Trader in Wool in that Constabulary, each Person's Accounts severally: Afterwards, the Account, transmitted from his Majesty's Officers of the Excise, shall be set down under that Constabulary, in which the Fellmonger lives: And lastly, whatever Certificates, &c. are sent from his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, or from the Clerk of the Peace, shall be enter'd all together, as the last Article, for that whole County, Riding, or Division, from which they are sent.

The Register, his Deputy, and Clerks, with all convenient Speed, after the Receipt of such Accounts, shall take the Copy of them, in such manner as is above directed; which Copy, the Register and his Deputy shall carefully examin, and compare with the Originals: And then, the Register shall take care, that the Copy be printed, as soon as may be; and the Register or his Deputy shall carefully examin, and compare, the printed Books with their own Copy; and, if there be any Mistakes, they shall correct them with the Pen; and shall certify, at the End of every printed Book, that such printed Book agrees with the Originals: and shall, immediately after, present unto the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade, &c. for the Use of the Board, three printed Copies: and shall also immediately send down, two printed Copies thereof, to every Clerk of the Peace, in Great-Britain. One Copy whereof the Clerk of the Peace shall carefully keep, and preserve, that no Alterations may be made therein; and free Access, without Fee or Reward, shall be had to the other; by any Freeholder of ten Pounds a Year, or any Person farming fifty Pounds a Year, within that County, Riding, or Division. And the Register, along with such printed Copies, shall return to the several Clerks of the Peace, the Originals, which he had received from them; in such manner, as they were by him receiv'd; to be, by the said Clerk of the Peace, carefully kept, and preserv'd.

And the Register, in the second Week of the Sessions of Parliament, next ensuing the Receipt of the Accounts, transmitted to him from the several Clerks of the Peace; shall humbly present, unto the Right Honourable the House of Lords, six printed Copies, and the same Number to the Right Honourable the House of Commons.

And the Register, or his Deputy, whenever it is required, shall attend either of the Right Honourable the Houses of Parliament; or the Right Honourable Board of Lord Commissioners of Trade; to give them Satisfaction, in any Particulars which they shall require, to be examin'd, and enquir'd into.

And, if the Register, his Deputy, or Clerks, shall detect any Fraud in the Accounts; they shall certify the same to the Right Honourable the House of Commons; and also, immediately after their Detection of it, to the Clerk of the Peace of the County, &c. where such Frauds are suppos'd to have been committed; and, in case of Conviction of the Offender, they shall be entitled to the same Share in the Penalties, as all other Informers and Prosecutors are, by the Act, intituled to.

The Places of Register, and Deputy Register shall be annual; except it shall please the Right Honourable the House of Commons to continue them longer in Office. But, if they shall have been guilty of Fraud, or wilful Neglect; they shall be utterly disqualified, to hold that, or any other Office, or Place of Trust, for the future; over and above such Penalties, as shall be inflicted upon them by Parliament.

17. That any Persons buying Wool, not exceeding Pounds Weight, to spin up for their own Use only; shall need only, to certify in Writing, sign'd by themselves, once in the Year, fourteen Days before Easter, to the Petty-Constable of the Township where they live, the Quantity of Wool by them bought; when; and of whom; particularly; and also, by whom it was wove or work'd up [No. 11.]

And

And the Seller of the Wool needs only to certify, once in the Year in like Manner [No. 12.]

And, as to such People, as use their own, or buy small Parcels of Wool, to card, and comb at Home, either to knit up into Stockings; or to be wove into coarse Woollen or mix'd Goods for Sale; they need only to certify once in the Year in like Manner: Which Certificate shall be delivered every Year, in the Week before Easter, to the Constable of the Township where they live.

18. That no Wool, which is not fully manufactur'd, shall be carried by any Wool-buyer, or by any employ'd by him; except such small Parcels as are carried to poor Carders, Spinners, Combers, Weavers, &c. but only in Packs, double Packs, or Pockets, mark'd as at present is requir'd by Law; only the Proprietor's Name to be at full Length. And the Weight of each Pack, double Pack, or Pocket, shall always, every where be the same. [If there be any Overplus, when it is first bought of the Grower, such Overplus shall be pack'd by itself, and carried along with the other] which Weight it is most humbly submitted to the Right Honourable the Two Houses of Parliament to settle; and also to settle, what Weight the Tod and Stone of Wool shall be every where throughout the Kingdom.

And whenever any Wool belonging either to Grower or Buyer shall be detected, in Casks, Barrels, Firkins, Boxes, Bags, or Bales; or pack'd up along with other Goods; or pack'd up under the Pretence, or Appearance of Woollen Goods fully manufactur'd; or of any other Goods whatever; that in all such Cases, the Wool itself shall be forfeited: And moreover, the Person or Persons concern'd in such clandestine packing it, shall be deem'd guilty of a Design, wilfully to secrete, conceal, carry, and alienate it; and shall, severally, be subject to the Penalty of twenty Shillings for the Fleece of every Sheep; and ten Shillings for the Fleece of every Lamb, or Pound Weight

Weight of Wool, which shall be detected clandestinely pack'd up.

And all Persons, carrying Wool, which is not fully manufactur'd, and is pack'd up in such clandestine Manner as is before specified; if it shall clearly appear, that they are privy to its being Wool not fully manufactur'd, shall likewise be subject to the same Penalties; over and above the Forfeiture of the Horses, Cattle, and Carriages, if it is upon the Land; and of the Boats, Vessels, and Ships, if it is upon the Water; which are or shall have been employ'd, in carrying it since the Commencement of the Act.

Provided notwithstanding, that if the Carriers of Wool so pack'd up, either by Land or by Water, shall give such timely Information thereof, that the Wool itself is seiz'd; or shall be the first Informers thereof; then, they shall not only be exempt themselves from all Penalties; but farther, shall be entitled to the same Reward, as all other Informers and Prosecutors are intitled to.

19. That no Wool, which is not fully manufactur'd, shall, under the same Penalties as in Article the 18th, be carried at all by Water; but only in Boats or Barges; or above Deck, in Hoys and Lighters; and only on Board the Boats, Barges, &c. of such Masters, as have used to trade upon that River where it is put on Board. And a Certificate dated [No. 13.] shall be first given to the Constable of the Township, where it is put on Board, by the Proprietor of such Wool, or his Agent; specifying the Number of Packs, and the Weight of the Wool, put on Board; and the Place where it is put on Board; and also the Constabulary, and County, wherein himself, if it be the Master; and, if it be an Agent, or Servant, then, that, wherein himself, and also that, wherein his Master lives: And also the Name of the Person, to whom it is to be deliver'd; and also the Name of the Constabulary, and County wherein he lives; and also the Name of the Master, or Owner, of the Boats, Barges, &c. which it is to be put on Board of. And, when it is deliver'd at the Place, it is consign'd

sign'd to ; the Master, or Servant to the Master, of such Boats, Barges, &c. shall take a Certificate [No. 14.] with Date, of the Delivery thereof at such a Place, &c. from the Person to whom he deliver'd it : And, if it be a Servant, or Agent, who gives the Certificate ; he shall express, whose Servant or Agent he is ; which Certificate the Boatman, Barge-man, &c. shall deliver, or take especial Care, that it be deliver'd, within fourteen Days after the Date thereof, to the Constable of the Place where it was first put on Board ; who shall enter both Certificates, as usual. And in case such Certificate is not, within such time, deliver'd to the said Constable ; then, within six Days after, he shall give Notice thereof to one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for that County, &c. who shall proceed therein as in other Cases of Information.

20. That no Wool not fully manufactur'd, (except only such, as shall be imported from Ireland to England, in such Manner as the Parliament shall please to settle,) shall, at any time, under the Penalty of twenty Shillings for every Pound Weight, be carried upon the open Sea ; or upon any navigable River, nearer than within Miles distance from the open Sea ; nor nearer, than where they may be safe, from being driven out into the open Sea ; nor shall be put on Board of any Vessel, in any Harbour or Creek, under the same Penalty.

And every Owner, or Master of any Vessel, who shall be proved to have knowingly carried, or exported ; or to have been knowingly concern'd, in carrying, and exporting Wool, not fully manufactur'd, to foreign Parts ; or to have deliver'd it from his own, on Board any other Vessel ; either upon the open Sea, or in any Creek or Harbour ; or in any navigable River, nearer than within Miles distance from the open Sea ; such Owner, and Master, shall be disqualified from trading by Sea for the future ; and shall, severally, incur the Penalty of five Pounds for every Pound Weight, which they shall be detected, to have had unlawfully on Board. And every one of the

the Ship's Crew, who shall be proved to have been privy thereunto; shall incur a Penalty of five Pounds each, and shall also suffer six Months Imprisonment. But, if the Master, or Ship's Crew, shall carry the Vessel into any English Port; so that the Wool be seiz'd; or shall, within three after, give Information thereof, as early as they have Opportunity so to do, before any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace; then such Person, or Persons, so informing, shall not only be exempt from all Penalties by them incurr'd, but shall likewise be intitled to two Thirds of the Penalty, incurr'd by the Delinquents.

And the Freighter of such Vessel, or Insurer thereof, if it shall appear, that he was privy to such Wool being put on Board; and the Owner of such Wool, by whose Order, or for whose Use, it was put on Board; shall, severally, incur the same Penalty with the Master, or Owner of the Vessel.

21. That every Trader in Wool, not fully manufactur'd; who lives himself, or has any Ware-houses, or Rooms, for lodging Wool, within less than Miles distance from the Sea; shall enter such Ware-houses, and Rooms, in the Petty-Constable's Book of that Constabulary wherein such Ware-houses, &c. are; and sign it himself; and, shall also deliver in, to the said Constable, another Entry to the same Purport (to be by the Constable transmitted to the Clerk of the Peace.) And, if it shall be detected, that he has conceal'd Wool, not fully manufactur'd; or has lodg'd it, in any other Place, than in the Rooms and Warehouses so enter'd; or in any secret Holes, or Places, within, or belonging to such Rooms, and Ware-houses; he shall incur the Penalty, of ten Shillings for every Pound of Wool, which he shall be convicted, of having, at any time, so secreted, and conceal'd.

22. In case the Petty-Constable shall himself know, or shall be inform'd, of any Neglect, or Default, in any Person, in not complying with the Directions of the Act; or of Refusal, to comply therewith; such
Petty-

Petty-Constable, under the Penalty of shall
 give Information thereof, either to one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County, &c. or to the Clerk of the Peace of the County, Riding, or Division, within fourteen Days after the Offence, that they may be proceeded against accordingly.

And, in case any Petty-Constable shall neglect to send in his Accounts, as is herein directed, to the High-Constable ; then the High-Constable shall certify the same in Writing, to the Clerk of the Peace, at the next Quarter Sessions. And, in case the High-Constable shall neglect, to deliver in the Accounts ; the Clerk of the Peace shall certify the same to the Justices in Sessions ; and the Justices shall fine them according to the Offence : And, in case the Clerk of the Peace shall neglect transmitting the Accounts, Abstracts, Certificates, and all such Things, to the Register, as he is by the Act oblig'd to do ; and the Names of all Defaulters, as certify'd to him ; then the Register shall certify the same to the Right Honourable the House of Commons, in the second Week of the Sessions of Parliament next ensuing.

23. That, whenever a Person's own Hand or Mark appears against him, it shall be admitted as sufficient Evidence ; except it shall fully and clearly appear, that there was a Mistake ; and not any just Reason to suspect, that there was any wilful Neglect, or any concerted or design'd Fraud.

And if any Information, or Prosecution shall happen, at such time, as the Originals cannot be searched by the Clerk of the Peace ; then, the Justices may require all Persons, whose Books may be judg'd serviceable, to give any Light into the Affair ; to produce their several Books, and they shall thereby determin, according to the best of their Judgment.

24. And, whenever any Information shall be made to any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, of any Offence committed against the Act ; and the Justices shall determin the Merits of such Information, without its being brought before the Quarter Sessions ;
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in such Case, the Substance of the Information, and of the Matter given in Evidence to support it, sign'd by the Informer, and Prosecutor ; together with the Determination of the Justices, upon the same Paper, sign'd by such Justices, shall be transmitted to the Clerk of the Peace, at the Quarter Sessions next ensuing. And the Justices Clerks, for drawing and transmitting such Certificates, shall be entitled to and no more, to be paid at the Signing thereof ; and by the Person, directed to pay it by the 27th Article.

And the same shall be done (in Cases of all Informations and Prosecutions upon the Act at the Sessions) by the Clerks of the Peace ; who shall receive and no more, for the same : But, instead of the Justices signing it, it shall be sufficient, that he, or his Deputy, sign it.

And all such Certificates the Clerk of the Peace shall transmit to the Register, as is directed in Article the 9th.

25. That the neat Profits of all Fines, Penalties, Forfeitures, or Seizures ; shall be divided ; one Third, to his Majesty ; and the other two Thirds to the Informer, or Prosecutor ; and that all Justices of the Peace, in their several Counties, Ridings, and Divisions, shall grant all proper Warrants ; and do all such Things, as shall be most conducive, to the speedy, easy, and least expensive, Recovery thereof. And his Majesty's Share of all such Fines, &c. shall be paid to the Clerk of the Peace, where it is recovered ; and shall, by him, be transmitted, yearly, to the Register in London ; who shall also, yearly, account for the same to the Exchequer.

26. That, for defraying the Expence ; and, as a Compensation to each Person concern'd in keeping Accounts, according to the Directions of the Act ; every Petty-Constable shall be paid by the Grower, a Penny the Score, for all Sheep, or Lambs, depasturing within his Constabulary, according to Article the 5th ; and also, to a Penny the Pack, to be paid
by

by the Buyer to the Seller, for all Wool clip'd in his Constabulary ; which the Grower, shall, upon Sale thereof, pay to the said Constable ; and shall also, every Year, be paid, by each Trader in Wool within his Constabulary, for registering their Names, the several Sums, according to what shall be settled in Article the 5th.

That the High-Constable shall be paid, by the Clerk of the Peace, Four-pence, severally, for the several Accounts of each Petty-Constable, within his Constabulary.

That every Buyer of Wool, shall, every Year, pay to the Clerk of the Peace, of the County, &c. where he lives, Two-pence a Pack, for all Wool bought by him that Year, of the Grower. *

And, the Sums receiv'd of each Buyer, the Clerk of the Peace shall set down, severally ; and also the Sum Total, of what he has upon that Account received ; and then, he shall make a Deduction of two Shillings in the Pound ; which he shall reserve for his own Use ; afterwards, he shall charge what he has paid to the High-Constables ; and the Charges of the Prosecutions upon difficult Points ; according as such Charges shall be settled by the Justices, as in Article the 27th, which Charges he shall likewise reserve to himself ; and then ballancing the Accounts, and subscribing his own Name, and the County, &c. (for which he is concern'd) he shall transmit the Accounts, as is directed Article the 9th, and return the Ballance to the Register ; who shall faithfully copy, and print the said Accounts, at the End of the Book of Accounts for the Year. And the Ballance shall remain in the Register's Hands, and shall be appropriated to the Benefit of the Woollen Trade, in such Manner, as the Parliament shall judge most proper.

27. Lastly,

* N. That the whole Charge extraordinary, exclusive of the Four-pence per Score already paid to the Woolwinders, will not amount to quite One Penny the Stone of Wool of fifteen Pounds Weight.

27. Lastly ; That as no artful Evasions or Elusions of the Act shall be allow'd, to screen any Person, offending against the plain and obvious Meaning and Design of it : So also, nothing therein contain'd, shall be interpreted rigorously, to the Prejudice of the fair Trader : But that, whenever any Person inform'd against, is of a fair Character ; and not suspected to have been before concern'd, in exporting ; or in furthering, or promoting, the Exportation ; or in concealing Wool, in order thereunto ; or any way, aiding, or assisting, therein ; and it does not fully appear, that he is, nor any just and sufficient Cause given, to suspect that he is, guilty of the subject Matter of the Information ; or of any fraudulent Design, within the plain Intent and Meaning of the Act ; that then, every Thing contain'd in the Act, shall be candidly, and favourably, interpreted ; and all proper Allowances made for Waste, and no Advantages taken, of any Default ; which may reasonably be suppos'd, to have happen'd, thro' casual Slips, and involuntary Mistakes.

And, to prevent all extraordinary Charges, and all Intanglement, and Perplexity ; all Informations, Actions, and Prosecutions, upon the Act, shall be only before his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in their several Counties, &c. respectively ; and their Determination shall be final ; except, where the Right Honourable the House of Commons, shall, upon Perusal of the Certificates of the several Informations, &c. judge proper, to revoke, or alter the same. And no Pleadings shall be allow'd, before the Justices ; but only, the Parties concern'd, and the Witnesses, shall be publickly examin'd ; (if it is at the Sessions, then in open Court,) as to the Fact. And, and to prevent all vexatious and litigious Prosecutions ; and, at the same time, not to deter any from prosecuting, where there seems to be just Occasion given for Suspicion ; the Justices, in case, it shall appear a difficult Point, shall certify it to the Right Honourable the House of Commons, as such,
and

and they shall, for the present, dismiss both Plaintiff and Defendant ; without any farther Trouble, Cost, or Charge ; till the Pleasure of Parliament shall be known therein ; and, in the mean time, the Charges shall be defray'd by the Clerk of the Peace, out of the Money paid into his Hands, for the Use of the Registry ; which Charge, the Justices in Sessions shall settle, and certify.

But, in case the Prosecution shall appear plainly vexatious, and litigious, then the Justices shall adjudge the Plaintiff to pay the whole Cost ; and such reasonable Damages, as they shall judge the Defendant truly, and reasonably, without any Aggravation, to have thereby sustain'd.



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PROPOSALS



PROPOSALS

Most humbly submitted

TO THE

Wisdom of Parliament.

1. *It is most humbly propos'd,*

THAT *Ireland* be put under the same Regulations with *Great-Britain*; subject, notwithstanding, to such Restrictions, as shall be thought proper by Parliament.

2. That there be no Duty upon Wool imported unmanufactur'd from *Ireland* to *England*. But, that the *Irish* be rather encourag'd to send over hither their raw Wool and Woollen Yarn: Provided, that it be only sent in Ships commission'd and register'd for that Purpose, and due Care be taken for convoying them; and, that they be confin'd to take
it

it on Board at such Ports only in *Ireland* as shall be nominated; and likewise, to deliver it in *England*, only at such particular Ports as shall be nominated: And, that proper Certificates be taken, and given, where it is put on Board; and the same also, where it is deliver'd. *

3. That proper Encouragement be given to the Growth both of Corn and Flax in *Ireland*, which wou'd invite the Inhabitants, gradually, to turn their Sheep Walks into Tillage; and would be a certain Means of benefiting them, without interfering with the Trade of, or giving any just Umbrage to *England*.

4. That proper Encouragement be given for the making Tapistry, and fully manufacturing our own fine Woosteds, &c.

5. That Encouragement be given for raising Hemp and Flax in our own Plantations, and bringing it home unmanufactur'd; by which we shall be enabled to supply the Northern Parts of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, with Materials for

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carrying

* *Note*, Article the 19th may afford some Light toward adjusting this,

carrying on the Linnen Manufacture And if they are properly encourag'd, they will gain as much Advantage by them, as the Southern Parts of *England* will gain by the Woollen Manufacture; and will be enabled to purchase all their Woollens here, without manufacturing any themselves; by which Means, *Scotland* and *Ireland* will be much enrich'd, and yet their Dependance upon *England* will be rather encreas'd than lessen'd; and which will also be a still greater general Advantage, a stricter Alliance between the Inhabitants of the several Parts of his Majesty's *British* and *Irish* Dominions will be thereby created.

6. That *Rum* from our own Plantations be imported either free, or subject only to a low Duty; by which we shall encourage the Consumption of a Liquor, Three Fourths at least, of the Profits of which centers here at Home in the End; and shall also discourage, and in a good Measure prevent the running any large Quantities of foreign Brandy upon us; in Exchange for which we have parted
with

with great Quantities of our Wool un-manufactur'd.

7. It is most humbly submitted to the Wisdom of Parliament; whether, if our worst Sorts of Tea paid a Duty *ad valorem*, That wou'd not likewise prevent our Wool being parted with, in Exchange for Tea smuggled in upon us from A-broad.

8. That the Exporting our Woollen Manufactures undy'd, be subjected to proper Restrictions.

9. It is most humbly submitted, that the Committee of Trade of the Right Honourable the House of Commons may yearly examine all Accounts laid before the House, by the Register for Wool and the Woollen Manufacture, and make their Report to the House accordingly.

Specimen

*Specimen of Certificates.*No. 1. *Constables Notice to Grasier, &c.*

Art. 4.

Day of

1743

YOU are hereby required, within Six Days after this Notice, to give in to me a particular Account in Writing, of the Number of Sheep and of Lambs; and also the Weight of the Wool which you have not fully manufactur'd, within this Constabulary; distinguishing, what Weight you have in the Fleeee, what in Wool comb'd, what in the Yarn, or any wise not fully manufactur'd.

James Knight,
Constable of Hallifax, Yorkshire.

No. 2. *Certificate from Farmer or Grasier.*

Art. 4.

Donnington, Lincolnshire,

Day of

1743

John Thomas Grasier,
Proprietor of

Sheep
Lambs
Fleeces
Weight lb.

John Thomas.

(39)

No. 3 *Certificate from Trader or Manu-*
Art. 4 *facturer*

Kettering, Northamptonshire Day of
1743

Pounds

Michael Watson Comber, } Proprietor of	<i>Fleece Wool</i> <i>Sorted</i> <i>Comb'd</i> <i>in Tarn</i>
Michael Watson	&c. &c. &c.

No. 4. *Certificate of Sheep or Lambs*
Art. 5. *bought or sold.*

At Grantham, Lincolnshire, the
Day of 1743

Sold <i>Sheep</i> <i>Lambs</i>	Bought <i>Sheep</i> <i>Lambs</i>
To John Johnson of Oundle, North- amptonshire, by John Thompson	Of Jonas Knight of Ancaster, Lin- colnshire, by John Thompson
	No. 5. <i>Monthly</i>

No. 5. *Monthly Certificate of Sheep, &c.*
Art. 5. *kill'd, stolen, &c.*

From the	Day of	to the	
Day of	1743.		
Killed for	{ Sheep	For home	{ Sheep
Sale,	{ Lambs	Use,	{ Lambs
Died,	{ Sheep	Stolen or	{ Sheep
	{ Lambs	strayed,	{ Lambs
Removed	{ Sheep	Sold to John	{
to	{ Lambs	Johnson of	{ Skins
		Hinckley,	{ Morts
		Leicestershire	{
		James Robinson	

*Certificate of fat Sheep or Lambs,
Shorn before the first of May, and after
the first of August.*

No. 6. Shorn the Day of
Art. 6. 1743

John Johnson. *Fat Sheep*
Fat Lambs

Notice

*Notice of Shearing to be given to the
Constable*

No. 7.	I shall within	Days shear
Art. 6.		Sheep
		Lambs

Day of June, 1743, Robert Thomas.

*Notice of Removal of Wool to be given to
the Constable*

No. 8.	Removed the	Day of
Art. 9.	1743	

From Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
to Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Fleeces

Robert Thomas.	<i>Gross Weight</i>
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Certificate from Seller to Buyer

No. 9.	Sold the	Day of
Art. 9.	1743	

To Robert Jackson of Taunton, Devon-
shire

Sheeps Fleeces

Lambs Fleeces

Gross Weight Stones

Pounds

Remains untold *Fleeces*

Gross Weight

Luke Mathews of Devizes, Wiltshire:

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Certificate

Certificate from Buyer to Seller.

No. 10 Bought the Day of
 Art. 9 1743.
 Of Luke Matthews of Devizes, Wiltshire.
 Growth of 1741, *Fleeces*
 of 1742, *Fleeces*
 Gross Weight Stones *Pounds.*
 Robert Jackson of Taunton, Devonshire.

*Certificate of Wool to be put on Board
 Boats, Barges, &c. to be given to the Con-
 stable, where it is to be put on board.*

No. 13. * In three Boats, John Watson,
 Art 19. for Wakefield, Yorkshire,
 of *Wool, Packs* 24
 Weight, Stones 384

Delivered the Day of 1743,
 at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire,

For Ralph Symonds of Wakefield,
 Yorkshire.

Joseph Hill of Torksey, Lincolnshire,
 For John Brown of Oakham, Rutland.

* *Note*, This shou'd be Number 10, and the next
 Number 11, and so in the Scheme, Page 26, and
 27.

Certificate of Wool received from on Board Boats, &c. to be taken at the Delivery thereof, and afterwards to be delivered to the Constable where it was taken on Board

No. 14. From on Board three Boats,
Art. 19. John Watson.

Received the	Day of	1743
	of <i>Wool</i> ,	<i>Packs</i> , 24
	<i>Weight</i> ,	<i>Stones</i> , 384
John Joyce, for Ralph Symonds, of Wakefield, Yorkshire.		

P O S T S C R I P T.

IT is most humbly propos'd, that farther Encouragement be given to *Scotland* and *Ireland*, for making *Cambricks* and *Lace*, by which we shou'd make a Saving to the Nation yearly of of several Hundred Thousand Pounds; and by this, and the other Instances of Favour towards them, we should efface all the Prejudices which they may have conceiv'd against us, and shou'd be strictly united by our common Interest.

F I N I S.

On the 1st of June 1843, the
 first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

POST OFFICE

The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.



The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

The first of the new series of
 postage stamps was issued.

